



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2010

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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS BOARD'S APPROVAL OF \$1.3 MILLION TO FUND VITAL SERVICES FOR HIGH-RISK AND HIGH-NEED YOUTH PROVIDED BY HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES

Programs will offer job placement, training, and education services through the County

LOS ANGELES – Emphasizing the role of Homeboy Industries in providing vital job training and other needed services to youth transitioning out of the L.A. County Probation system, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded the Board of Supervisors' approval of \$1.38 million to fund job development and re-entry programs for high-risk and high-need youth between the ages of 14 to 30 throughout the County.

Homeboy Industries, a community-based private, non profit organization, currently provides at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth with a variety of opportunities to become positive and contributing members of society through job placement, training, and education services.

The County's financial commitment is in line with Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' vision to lower the recidivism rate among youth in the County Probation system by facilitating community interaction and involvement, enhancing employment opportunities, and creating an environment for positive community involvement.

Homeboy Industries has long served the County by providing job training and other services, such as tattoo removal to youthful offenders in the County's Probation system. To date, the agency has performed more than 20,000 tattoo removal sessions for youth at no charge to the County or to the youth.

The Supervisor added that the federal government has also recognized the valuable work of Homeboy Industries by awarding the organization a \$300,000 Roybal-Allard grant to perform the services.

“The organization’s work has generated long-term savings for the County by enabling young people to lead productive lives,” the Supervisor said.

The Board authorized the allocation of the funds that will be used for the administration of social service programs offered for probation youth, including the following:

- **Case Management:** The development of a detailed educational and vocational case plan in collaboration with the participant and caretaker.
- **Community Service:** Placement for community service so that young women and men can complete their probation requirements.
- **Educational Services:** Participation in educational programs that strengthen education, financial management, and business and life skills.
- **Employment Services:** Job readiness training and job placement services.
- **Legal Services:** On-site legal services to address obstacles that can interfere with successful employment.
- **Mental Health Counseling:** Mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and psychiatrist services.
- **Tattoo Removal:** Tattoo removal services.

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